

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, TW

SUBJECT: COPYRIGHT - ALLEGED BOOK PIRACY OF INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LANGUAGE (IML) PUBLICATIONS BY RAINBOW BRIDGE BOOK CC

1. ENNO HOBGING, ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT OF INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LANGUAGES (IML), SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, INFORMED
DEPARTMENT BY LETTER OF AUGUST 5 OF ALLEGED BOOK PIRACY AND
OTHER PUBLISHING PROBLEMS WITH RAINBOW BRIDGE BOOK COMPANY
(RBBC) OF TAIWAN.

2. HOBGING STATED THAT SINCE APRIL 1973 WHEN OWNERSHIP OF
IML WAS TRANSFERRED FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY TO AMERI-
CAN INTERNATIONAL PRINTING CO., INC., RBBC HAS REFUSED TO
ACKNOWLEDGE CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OF IML EVEN AFTER REPEATED
ATTEMPTS HAD BEEN MADE TO RENEGOTIATE TERMS OF ORIGINAL
PUBLISHING/DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT THAT HAD BEEN CONCLUDED
WITH AMERICAN EXPRESS. ADDITIONALLY, RBBC HAS ALLEGEDLY
WITHHELD FROM IML PAYMENT OF ROYALTIES THAT WERE NEGOTIATED
UNDER ORIGINAL PUBLISHING/DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT ON GROUNDS
THAT IML MUST RE-REGISTER COPYRIGHTS WITH APPROPRIATE GROU-
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MINISTRY. HOBGING NOTED THAT NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION HAD

BEEN FORWARDED TO RBBC FOR RE-REGISTRATION. HE BELIEVED THAT THIS REQUEST BY RBBC FOR COPYRIGHT RE-REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION IMPLIED RECOGNITION TRANSFER OF IML OWNERSHIP.

3. HOBBS ALLEGES THAT RBBC IS DISTRIBUTING AND SELLING IML PUBLICATIONS OUTSIDE OF TAIWAN IN VIOLATION OF ORIGINAL PUBLISHING/DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT THAT STIPULATED DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS FOR TAIWAN ONLY. HE CITED IML PUBLICATION "ORIENTATION IN AMERICAN ENGLISH" AS HAVING BEEN TRANSLATED BY RBBC INTO CHINESE LANGUAGE, REPRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION OR PAYMENT OF ROYALTIES. FURTHER, RBBC HAS ALLEGEDLY CONTRACTED WITH FOUR SEAS CO. OF TAIWAN TO PRODUCE AND SELL TAPE RECORDINGS OF IML PUBLICATIONS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM IML.

4. WE ARE AIR POUCHING COPY OF LETTER FROM IML TO DEPARTMENT GIVING FURTHER DETAILS OF THIS CASE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE ON (A) STATUS OF RE-REGISTRATION OF IML COPYRIGHTS, AND (B) WHETHER OR NOT UNDER ROC LAW ORIGINAL IML-RBBC PUBLISHING/DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT MUST INDEED BE RE-NEGOTIATED CONSEQUENT UPON THE TRANSFER OF IML OWNERSHIP. IF IML IS FOUND TO HAVE TAKEN STEPS NECESSARY UNDER ROC LAW TO PROTECT THE ORIGINAL PUBLISHING/DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH RBBC (MANAGER: SUN KUO-JEN) AND, AT YOUR DISCRETION, WITH APPROPRIATE ROC OFFICIALS IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Review Media Identifier:
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